

WHEREAS, Over the course of the summer and fall of 1995, the Task Force to Review the State's Election Law received considerable testimony from individuals involved in the State's election process; and

WHEREAS, The comments and testimony of State and local election law officials and other individuals involved in the administration and enforcement of the election laws consistently affirmed that a comprehensive, substantive revision of Article 33 of the Annotated Code is required in order to remove archaic provisions and resolve omissions and contradictions that exist in the current law; and

WHEREAS, The usual Code Revision process is limited to making stylistic, restructuring, nonsubstantive changes in the law, but not substantive revisions; and

WHEREAS, A major substantive revision of Article 33 is required to make the law comport with the needs of modern election administration, to make the law mesh with the realities of current and future technologies, and to clarify the respective roles of election boards and professional administrators at the local and State level; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force did not have the time needed to accomplish the level of significant rewriting of the election law that is so urgently required; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments**

18-309.

(A) THERE IS A COMMISSION TO REVISE THE ELECTION CODE.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) TWO INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES AND ONE INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES;

(2) TWO INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND AND ONE INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

(3) THREE INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE MINORITY PARTY.

(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.

(D) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR SERVING ON THE COMMISSION, BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL: